

Appendix F.2

Technical Skills and Services to Meet the Health Care Needs of Students in the School Setting

All students requiring technical skills and services to meet their health care needs at school should be seen by a registered nurse (RN) for assessment, planning and monitoring. In addition, those students should have a health care action plan written and implemented by a registered nurse. The registered nurse may be employed by the school district or contracted from an agency where nursing services are available.

When a physician's written authorization is required for specialized health care, the physician may serve as a team member to develop a health care action plan. The procedure should not be performed at school unless clearly necessary and when it cannot reasonably be accomplished outside of school hours. Students and parents should inform school personnel of techniques and procedures being used at home.

There are certain procedures that cannot be performed by a non-medical person. School personnel, including the nurse, may need additional training for some procedures. If no registered nurse is available, a physician should determine who may safely provide care.

The Department of Health and Senior Services has training videos on a number of chronic health conditions and the care required in the school setting. Commercially available procedure books also include forms on which to document the skills taught. The caregiver, the parent and the nurse should all sign off on the initial training. The person delegating the care should periodically monitor the quality of the care to ensure the procedure is being followed as taught, is being documented as required and the caregiver is reporting concerns appropriately.

The following chart describes the student's health care needs and who may be considered as a caregiver. A physician or a registered nurse should make the determination based on an assessment of the child's health status, the complexity of the procedures and the capability of the proposed caregiver. The caregiver must be provided training and support until they feel competent to provide the care. The person delegating the care must be confident the caregiver has mastered the skills necessary.

TECHNICAL SKILLS CHART

HEALTH CARE NEED	SCHOOL PERSONNEL						CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING NURSING JUDGEMENT	REMARKS
	RN	LPN	PT	OT	T	O		
Personal Care 1. Dressing (Assist with clothing)	X	X	X	X	X	X		Student and parent can inform school personnel of procedure being used at home.
2. Personal Hygiene Oral care Nail care Skin care Bathing Menstrual Hygiene	X	X	X	X	X	X	Evidence of rash, skin breakdown and/or infection	May request personal care items from parent unless activity is called for in IEP.
3. Decubitus Prevention Care	X X	X X	X	X	X	X *	*RN may determine if other caregivers may provide care for decubitus if evidence of granulation and non-healing.	Prevention care to be taught by RN, OT or PT. Requires physician's orders.
4. Positioning	X	X	X	X	X	X	Evidence of skin breakdown and/or pain on movement.	Adequate space and equipment must be available. Positioning to be taught by PT, OT, or RN.
5. Exercise (range of motion or prescribed exercise program.	X	X	X	X	X	X	Evidence of pain or restricted movement.	May require a physician order. Adaptive PE teacher should be involved.
6. Ambulation (assistance with cane, walker, wheelchair, crutches)	X	X	X	X		X		Appropriate equipment must be available. May require physician's order. Adaptive PE teacher should be involved.
7. Casts, Braces and Prostheses (observation, alignment, functioning)	X	X	X	X	X	X	Evidence of impaired circulation, infection, pain, drainage or bleeding.	

HEALTH CARE NEED	SCHOOL PERSONNEL						CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING NURSING JUDGEMENT	REMARKS
	RN	LPN	PT	OT	T	O		
8. Use of Warm and Cold Applications	X	X	X	X		X	Change in skin color, texture, or temperature beyond what is expected from application.	May require physician's order. Supplies and equipment must be available. Special precautions to be observed for students with diabetes, heart disease or unstable body temperatures.
9. Measurements Temperature, Pulse and Respiration (TPR) Blood Pressure	X	X				*	Evidence of fluctuating or abnormal TPR.	Appropriate equipment must be available. Medications may effect changes.
	X	X				*	Evidence of fluctuating BP or protocol requiring BP be taken before or after medication or treatment.	
Height/Weight	X	X	X	X	X	X	Evidence of frequent fluctuations or dramatic changes. Arrested growth.	
Intake/Output	X	X	X	X	X	X	Changes in usual patterns.	

HEALTH CARE NEED	SCHOOL PERSONNEL						CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING NURSING JUDGEMENT	REMARKS
	RN	LPN	PT	OT	T	O		
10. Medications (Assist student)	X	X				*	Medications requiring BP, radial or apical pulse before or after medication. Medications that require nursing judgement to determine dose.	The school should have a policies for medication administration, regardless of route of administration. Requires physician order (prescription) and parent authorization. Over the counter drugs require at least a parent authorization. Unlicensed personnel giving meds must be appropriately trained in specific routes of administration of medications. Training must be documented.
Oral	X	X				*	RN should provide the training of any personnel giving medications.	
Rectal	X	X				*		
Opthalmic (eye)	X	X				*		
Otic (ear)	X	X				*	Usually not delegated.	
Medications via gastrostomy or nasogastric tube	X	X				*	Evidence of displacement of tube, obstruction of tube, excessive vomiting or diarrhea	Requires prescription which must specify administration via feeding tube. Nursing personnel will follow health care action plan for reinsertion of tube if displaced.
Medication via intravenous tube (already in place)	X	X					Not to be delegated except to qualified nursing personnel.	Requires prescription. If tubing obstructed, follow health care action plan.
Medications by Intramuscular or subcutaneous injection	X	X					Not to be delegated except to qualified nursing personnel. Might be given by other trained personnel in an emergency, e.g., severe allergic reaction.	Requires prescription.

HEALTH CARE NEED	SCHOOL PERSONNEL						CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING NURSING JUDGEMENT	REMARKS
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11. Fluids								
• Nourishment Preparation	X	X	X	X	X	X	Special diets required. Evidence of change in student's oral, motor, swallowing, positioning and/or sensory abilities. May be delegated to qualified nursing personnel.	Student and parent/guardian should inform school personnel of procedures used at home.
• Oral feedings	X	X	X	X	X	X		
• Hyperalimentation (high calorie intravenous feedings)	X						Evidence of obstruction, malabsorption, infection at insertion site, displacement of tube, excessive vomiting or diarrhea.	Requires prescription Procedure requires a prescription. If feeding does not require a prescription, schools that participate in USDA school lunch program must provide formula at price of regular lunch. Nursing personnel will follow health care action plan for reinsertion of tube.
• Gastrostomy or Nasogastric tube feeding (tube or button in place)	X					*		

HEALTH CARE NEED	SCHOOL PERSONNEL						CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING NURSING JUDGEMENT	REMARKS
	RN	LPN	PT	OT	T	O		
12. Bowel and Bladder Care:								
• Bedpan, urinal or commode	X	X				*	Evidence of infection and/or skin breakdown.	Appropriate equipment must be available.
• Care of Incontinent student (including diapering)	X	X				*	Evidence of infection and/or skin breakdown. Bowel/bladder training may be indicated.	Parent/guardian must provide supplies and clean clothing. Is an infection control issue.
• External Urinary Catheter	X	X				*	Evidence of infection or pain.	Parent/guardian provides supplies.
• Clean Intermittent Catheterization	X	X				*	Evidence of infection, pain, bleeding, inability to insert catheter.	Requires physician order and parent authorization. Student and parent inform school of procedures used at home.
• Indwelling Catheter	X	X				*		Parent/guardian to provide supplies.
• Prescribed Bowel and Bladder Training	X	X				*	Evidence of skin breakdown or infection.	Parent/guardian to provide supplies.
• Stoma Care	X	X				*		

HEALTH CARE NEED	SCHOOL PERSONNEL						CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING NURSING JUDGEMENT	REMARKS
	RN	LPN	PT	OT	T	O		
13. Respiratory Care: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postural drainage and/or percussion • Spirometer (assisted deep breathing) • Oxygen per mask or Cannula • Oxygen per nebulizer • Suctioning (oral) Machine or bulb • Tracheostomy 	X	X	X	X		*	Evidence of increasing respiratory distress	Requires physician order. Requires physician order. Requires safety precautions for oxygen use, storage, etc. Parent/guardian provides equipment, supplies, and oxygen, and takes responsibility for moving oxygen tanks. Requires physician order. Alternate power supply must be available. Follow medication policy if drugs are administered via nebulizer. Requires physician order.
	X					*	May be provided by respiratory therapist or delegated to qualified nursing staff. Evidence of increasing respiratory distress	
	X					*	May be provided by respiratory therapist or delegated.	
	X					*	May be provided by respiratory therapist or delegated. Evidence of increasing respiratory distress or obstruction. Need for medication.	
	X	X				*	Respiratory distress during suctioning. Evidence of bright red bleeding	
	X	X				*		
14. Dressings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforcement • Clean dressing • Sterile 	X	X				*	Excessive bleeding or discharge. Complaints of pain or discomfort	Requires physician order. Parent/guardian provides supplies.
	X	X				*		
	X	X					May be delegated to qualified nursing personnel	

HEALTH CARE NEED	SCHOOL PERSONNEL						CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING NURSING JUDGEMENT	REMARKS
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15. Specimen collection (Urine, stool, sputum, Blood, throat culture)	X	X				*	Evidence of infectious disease	Requires a physician order. Is an infection control issue. Health care provider or parent/guardian provides supplies and appropriate collection container. Observe universal precautions, wearing gloves.
16. Specimen testing Urinalysis Hematocrit Blood Glucose monitoring	X X X	X X X				* *	Report questionable results	Designate personnel to monitor self-testing by student. Parent/guardian to provide supplies. Requires physician order

RN – Registered Nurse

LPN – Licensed Practical Nurse

PT – Physical Therapist

OT – Occupational Therapist

T – Teacher(s)

O -- Others Includes individual appropriately trained, as specified in health care action plan for student. Training may be done by personnel listed as providers.

If another type of specialized procedure is required by a student in the school setting, the student/family, student's physician and school staff, including the registered nurse will jointly determine who can best provide the care.